semester system and choice based credit system in section 6 thereof. The Government have accorded a high priority to extending academic reforms to other Central Universities also.

Academic opportunities for SC/ST pupil

1120. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SC/ST pupil after passing Tenth class are not getting good academic opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the exact reasons for such position; and

(d) the steps being taken to encourage and creating awareness among the SC/ST pupil through AIR and TV even in remote and agency areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Various steps have already been taken by the Government to encourage the SC/ST pupils as well as for creating awareness about various opportunities available to them through AIR and TV all over India, including Andhra Pradesh. News Service Division of All India Radio has been giving coverage on the issues affecting the common man and how the various schemes of the Central government provide opportunities for the development of SCs/STs, OBCs, Minorities, etc. Development Communication Division (DCD) of Doordarshan has produced programmes on various subjects, including education. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been imparting its educational programmes through various Gyan Darshan channel and Gyan Vani FM Radio Station. It covers whole of India, including Andhra Pradesh. Further, Society for Andhra Pradesh Network (SAPNET), have provided connectivity to selected state-run educational institutions and a large number of first generation learners at the institutions are getting benefitted from the programmes.

Circulars issued by UGC regarding admission in unapproved colleges/centres

1121. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued circular cautioning students and advised them not to take admission in the unapproved off campus, off shore campus, new developed study centre, colleges and institutions affiliated to deemed universities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons of issuing such circulars; and

(c) what is the reason that on the one hand Ministry is recognizing the deemed university and other hand issuing such a circular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Institutions are declared as "deemed to be universities" by the Central Government on the advice of the University Grants Commission (UGC). Activities of such "deemed to be universities" are subject to prescribed guidelines. UGC has refrained all the deemed universities from opening any new department/institution/off campus centre/off shore campus without the approval of the UGC/Ministry of Human Resource Development. Further, the institutions 'deemed to be universities' have been informed that they should not conduct any course under distance mode without the specific approval of the Joint Committee of UGC-AICTE-DEC. UGC has also put the list of institutions 'deemed to be universities' and their approved 'off-campuses' on its website and have cautioned the parents/students to be careful before taking admission in any unauthorized 'off-campus' etc.

As per information gathered from UGC, some of the deemed universities have violated the UGC guidelines and established new departments/new institutions/off campus/study centres without the approval of the UGC. The UGC has accordingly sought explanation from these institutions for further action.

Appointment of Principals in colleges

1122. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that about 80 per cent of the colleges affiliated to State Universities have not appointed qualified Principals causing thereby drift in standard of higher education;

(b) if so, what steps would be taken to put the educational house in order; and

(c) if so, whether the Union Government may not share the responsibility alongwith the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Appointment to the posts of Principals of colleges falls within the purview of the concerned State Governments. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prescribed eligibility conditions for appointment of Principals and has been reiterating the need for appointing regular qualified Principals by the State Governments. The pay structure of teachers and principals in Central Universities and Colleges thereunder have since been revised by Central Government and higher academic standards have been prescribed. Benefits of pay revision are linked to fulfillment of eligibility conditions.

Financial assistance for vocational courses

1123. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme undertaken by his Ministry to give financial assistance for vocational courses in catering technology;